

Applic. No. 10/717,415  
Amdt. dated May 18, 2007  
Reply to Office action of February 22, 2007

RECEIVED  
CENTRAL FAX CENTER  
MAY 18 2007

Claim Amendments

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions,  
and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for controlling vacuum  
distribution in an exposer for recording printing originals,  
which comprises the steps of:

holding firmly a recording material of a printing original on  
a supporting surface by vacuum, the recording material being  
attracted by suction by a vacuum pump through suction grooves  
machined into the supporting surface and through suction ducts  
connected to the suction grooves; and

opening and closing the suction ducts by manipulating valves,  
the valves being closed by a mechanical force from a  
mechanical actuator, and the valves being opened by an action  
of compressed air on a piston in each of the valves.

Claim 2 (original): The method according to claim 1, which  
further comprises opening all of the valves simultaneously.

Applic. No. 10/717,415  
Amdt. dated May 18, 2007  
Reply to Office action of February 22, 2007

Claim 3 (original): The method according to claim 1, which further comprises integrating an outlet opening for the compressed air into the actuator.

Claim 4 (original): The method according to claim 1, which further comprises:

disposing the suction ducts and the valves in an exposure drum; and

disposing the actuator outside the exposure drum.

Claim 5 (original): The method according to claim 1, wherein the exposer records on printing plates.

Claim 6 (currently amended): An apparatus for controlling vacuum distribution in an exposer for recording printing originals, comprising:

a supporting surface for receiving a recording material of a printing original, said supporting surface having suction grooves machined therein and through said suction grooves the recording material is attracted to said supporting surface by suction;

Applic. No. 10/717,415  
Amdt. dated May 18, 2007  
Reply to Office action of February 22, 2007

RECEIVED  
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

MAY 18 2007

suction ducts connected to said suction grooves;

valves disposed in a valve block, said valves for opening and closing said suction ducts, each of said valves having a respective piston rod and a respective piston, said valves being opened by compressed air acting on said pistons; and

a mechanical actuator configured to selectively push said piston rods into said valve block with a mechanical force for closing selected ones of said valves.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said valves each contain:

a bush having a wall with drilled holes formed therein, said piston rod being displaced in said bush.

Claim 8 (original): The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said piston rod closes and opens said drilled holes.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said mechanical actuator closes a respective one of said valves with a force acting on said piston rod.

Applic. No. 10/717,415  
Amdt. dated May 18, 2007  
Reply to Office action of February 22, 2007

Claim 10 (previously presented): The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said mechanical actuator has an outlet opening formed therein for channeling the compressed air.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The apparatus according to claim 6, ~~further comprising a~~ wherein said valve block ~~having~~ has a negative-pressure duct and a compressed-air duct formed therein, said valves connected to said negative-pressure duct and said compressed-air duct.

Claim 12 (original): The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the exposser records on printing plates.